

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2011
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Tom Ward. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee News, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on May 19, 2011.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Ken Spraetz led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Lisa Gerke recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Ken Spraetz, Tom Ward, Errol Kindschy, Scott Scafe, and Thomas Helgeson. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Eric Jensen, Mark Carlson, Barb Buswell, John Smalley, Michael St. Pierre, and Lisa Gerke; Student representative: Taylor Gile. Finance Director: Davita Molling, Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Jason Falck, Linda Brown, Dean Buchanan, and Megan Tabbert.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Spraetz moved, Mr. Helgeson seconded to approve the agenda as Amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Taylor Gile reported on:

1. Neshonoc Yearbook Dedication was last Friday. Chuck Bockenfeld was this year's dedicatee.
2. The male and female athletes of the year were announced on Friday, this year's recipients are Jake McCabe and Meagan Koepnick.
3. This Friday, the high school will be having the annual senior sing-out.
4. Graduation will be held this Sunday, May 29, 2011.

Correspondence

Letters of support for the La Crosse Day Care Centers as the provider for surround care were shared with the Board from the following: Nihole Staff, Nolan and Jennifer Nolte, Cindy and Darren Springborn, Michelle Harper, Aaron and Kelly Hillyer, and Chris and Jennifer Wehrenberg.

Public comments – Individuals signed up and will be allowed to speak during agenda item F., before/after school day care contracts.

Written and Oral Reports

CESA #4 – Mr. Kindschy reported on the upcoming annual CESA convention in June, contracts for services accepted by school districts and the CESA #4 technology plan.

Supervisor reports were reviewed. Mrs. Kloser noted that the elementary school received the Healthier US School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction; the first school in Wisconsin to receive this award. Mr. Gunderson had nothing to report.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of May 9, 2011, and the invoices to be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Sherry Picha, Michelle Witte, Tom Fell, Barb Omit, and Scott Schumacher signed up to speak during the Citizen Participation at Board Meetings portion of the meeting, and were allowed to speak on behalf of the La Crosse Day Care Centers (Birchwood Day Care). Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the contract with the La Crosse Day Care Centers for one more year. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Helgeson seconded to accept donations from Tanner and Jamie Holst for the early childhood program, from Tom Miller to the OEC, and from Carol Hanson to the elementary school LMC. Motion carried unanimously.

High School Counselor Cathy Tyink and High School Principal Mark Carlson shared with the Board pictures of an on-going project, Flag of Nations, which includes flags hung in the high school commons representing foreign exchange students. This project was started with local support and funds from a West Salem School Board grant.

Mr. Carlson shared letters from parents commending the music department for the handling of the recent severe weather situation and the trip to New York City. Choir Director Amy Hanson and Band Director David Kies shared a video of the trip.

High School Math and Technology Teacher Jonathan Jones shared a student project with the Board. The project was to create a web site for the West Salem Rod and Gun Club. Mr. Roger Fish, board member of the rod and gun club, was present to thank Mr. Jones and the students for their work on the web site.

West Salem School District Four-year Old Kindergarten Teachers Anna Squires, Barb Wettstein and Jill Kreibich, along with Rachel Lysne from Little Learners and Tara VonRuden from Birchwood, gave a presentation on the success of the second year of the program. Kindergarten Teacher Peggy Green offered an update on the impact of the 4K program. Mr. Smalley shared the plan for the 2011-2012 school year.

Mr. Brian Brewer, our financial consultant from Baird, provided information on refinancing the debt for our elementary school. Mr. Helgeson moved, Mr. Kindschy seconded to move forward with the refinancing using Option #2 as presented by Mr. Brewer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to proceed with the Food Service co-op with the Bangor School District and the resulting West Salem staff adjustments. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spraez moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve for the second reading of policy #443 Student Conduct Rules and Discipline Guidelines, #443.1 Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs, #446 Student Search. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Helgeson seconded to approve the summer school classes and staffing as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Helgeson moved, Mr. Kindschy seconded to accept the administrations recommendation to hire Dan Schneider as the baseball coach for the "C" team. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to accept with regret, the resignations from High School Social Studies Teacher Corey Peterson, JV Volleyball Coach Andrea Koch, Bus Driver Jill Schomberg, and retirements from Bus Drivers Donald Gensch, Janet Wolter and Ken Schweiger. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ward welcomes the motion for closed session: The Board will discuss, consider, and if appropriate, take action regarding the administrators' and non-union district employees' contracts and compensation for the 2011-2012 school year under Wis. Stats §19.85(1)(e) "Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session;" and Wis. Stats §19.85(1)(c) "Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility."

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Helgeson seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 9:04 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Spraez Aye, Mr. Helgeson Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to reconvene into open session at 9:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to issue contracts to the non-union district employees', including the middle school and high school athletic directors, with salaries frozen, except for the salary changes for Michelle Kloser, Tracy Christopherson and Tiffany Lisk. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Helgeson moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to reissue contracts to the administrative staff keeping the salary the same and changing the health and retirement language. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Helgeson seconded to adjourn at 9:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Errol Kindschy, Acting Clerk